



DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION'S Economic Sustainability Plan Framework Study

Community Meeting Summary - Round One

September 17, 2010 - Discovery Bay (Boardwalk Grill) - 5879 Marina Road - 9-10:30 a.m.

The following meeting summary was from the second of five community meetings scheduled in the Delta to gather public input on the creation of the framework for the upcoming Economic Sustainability Plan (ESP). The Delta Protection Commission will complete the ESP by July 2011. The adopted plan will include information and recommendations that will be used for future planning efforts, including the Delta Stewardship Council's policies regarding the socioeconomic sustainability of the Delta region. The ESP will address multiple issues relating to the Delta's economic sustainability, including public safety and flood protection, recreation and tourism, agriculture and business, and infrastructure.

OVERVIEW

The community meeting was held at the Boardwalk Grill in Discovery Bay on Friday, September 17, 2010 from 9-10:30 a.m. Approximately 20 people attended the meeting. DPC Staff and Commissioners Mary Piepho and Gregg Albright were in attendance, along with the ESP Framework planning team.

PRESENTATION

Commissioner Piepho, Mike Machado, Matt Kowta and Seann Rooney presented the project to the group, outlining past legislation (that calls for the preparation of the ESP) and the project timeline. Also reviewed were the role and history of the commission, the scope of the current planning effort and some preliminary economic data. The presentation was followed by a 45 minute discussion with participants. The discussion concluded and community members were encouraged to provide comments after the large group session. The event concluded at 10:45 a.m.

DISCUSSION

The following comments were offered during the large group discussion (and from three comment cards):

- Sustainability - do not want to turn Delta into a marshy lake
- The health of the Delta depends on the water flow (don't alter natural flow)
- Need to look back in history (10-15 years). Water quality has changed (water shipped to Southern CA)
- Salt water intrusion from the ocean (salt water affects fishing, farmers and crops)
- Boating and fishing negatively affected because of water transport
- Less ground water flowing to Delta

(Notes - Continued)

- What are the infrastructure impacts (proposed)?
- Protect the Delta, it is a special place
- Viability of employment, housing, and recreation and tourism (Ag and recreation used to be key to economy). Should still be
- Role of waterway affects local economy and quality of life
- Update charts. A lot has changed since 1998
- Low-density housing could be an economic positive for Discovery Bay area (NOT high-density) - density an issue
- Most people come to the Delta to move away from the city (keep Delta viable)
- Environmental concerns if marinas shut down (economic feasibility)
- Dams are one large water facility feeding the Clifton Court Forebay
- Create a second Clifton Court Forebay instead of dams (interconnect)
- Salmon caught in pumps- newer pumps don't capture smelt
- Environmental/sport fishing impacted (Two Gates project)
- Gates cause physical constraints, access to the Delta (boats, jet ski's caught in gates). Safety issues
- Real estate property values in Discovery Bay are affected (Discovery Bay built around water)
- Residential and commercial property taxes impacted
- Visitors come from all over for recreational purposes and spend money in the Delta
- Don't alter natural flow- this will negatively impact community (businesses will close)
- What does it take to keep the Delta viable?
- Flood protection - make sure levees are maintained
- Aquatic weed management plan (some people can't get out of their docks)
- Investment from reclamation districts brings state dollars and special projects (100 year certificate)
- RD 800 (approx. 10,000 people protected, plus outside area)
- If levees failed in RD 800 people wouldn't be able to live in Discovery Bay
- Everyone hurt if levees fail (Ag, fish, recreation, etc...)
- In Discovery Bay area \$147 per house/per year fee (to support district)
- Delta is top fishery in the country (salmon, bass, and other species)
- Less flow could impact fishing guides, tournaments, rentals, trips to Delta, hotels, etc...
- Commercial salmon fishing (shut down) - so Delta is important
- Water quality (if decreased) impacts food supply (affects worldwide not just locally)
- Around 1995 (similar to Two Gates project) a gate was shut to temporarily stop flow. Water quality was so degraded that water had to be stopped (drinking water) for 30 days. If we degrade the Delta's water quality, we won't have pumpable water left to distribute (alternative reverse osmosis)
- Need more people participating in this and other planning projects.



For more information on the Economic Sustainability Plan Framework Study please visit the Delta Protection Commission's website at www.Delta.ca.gov. Meeting agendas (same for all five meetings), summaries, presentations and other information has been posted on the DPC website (www.delta.ca.gov). Please contact DPC staff at (916) 776-2290 for more information.